Canada

CANADIAN MARINE RESCUE AUXILIARY – WESTERN (CMRA)

In 1978 the Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary (CMRA) was incorporated under the sponsorship of the federal government for the purpose of providing organized volunteer marine Search and Rescue (SAR) and SAR Prevention. It is, in effect, the Auxiliary support to the Canadian Coast Guard's SAR operations.

In the western region, CMRA units can be found all along the 29,000 km B.C. coastline and in Yellowknife, N.W.T. Because marine Search and Rescue needs vary from location to location, CMRA facilities will also vary. The majority are member owned and operated pleasure and commercial craft capable of carrying out SAR operations. In several communities, through joint efforts with local fund-raising societies, specialized rescue craft have been purchased and are being operated by Auxiliary members on a 24 hours, 7 days a week basis. Members also operate Coast Guard inshore rescue boats (IRB's) and crew on Coast Guard cutters, also on 24 hour call out. For SAR purposes, the CMRA aims at a response time of 20 minutes from the time the Department of National Defense Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria issues its tasking requests to the time the auxiliarist has a vessel on its way to the rescue location.

All vessels offered to the CMRA are required to carry specific SAR equipment and must undergo an Auxiliary Vessel Inspection (AVI) prior to acceptance for service.

All members must successfully complete SAR orientation training, learn to execute marine search patterns, towing techniques, survivor recovery, first aid, CPR and other rescue-related skills.

Selected members, on a volunteer basis, may also be trained to conduct Courtesy Vessel Examinations (CVE's) or become involved in other SAR prevention activities.

Coast Guard staff are designated to work with the Auxiliary to provide support services and training. Enrollment and administration are the responsibility of the elected CMRA president, board of directors and officers. When on an incident or authorized activity, members are covered by suitable insurance and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed.

The CMRA provide assistance in one-third of the marine SAR incidents on the west coast of Canada. It is Canada's nation-wide volunteer Search and Rescue organization - the only such organization that covers our entire coast, trains its members and conducts public services that help reduce accidents and loss of life on the water. The CMRA is enthusiastically supported by the Department of National Defence and the Department of Transport's Canadian Coast Guard.

The CMRA . . . Your good neighbour on the water!

For more information, contact:

CMRA
1661 Whyte Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
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(604) 736-5055

CMRA Unit Locations

Alert Bay	Pender Harbour
Bella Bella	Port Alberni/Bamfield
Bella Coola	Port Hardy
Campbell River	Port Simpson
Comox	Powell River
Crescent Beach	Prince Rupert
Fraser River/Pitt Lake	Qualicum
Gold River	Queen Charlotte City
Gulf Islands N.W.	Quatsino
Gulf Islands S.W.	Richmond/Delta
Howe Sound	Sechelt/Gibsons
Indian Arm	Saanich
Kitimat	Sooke
Klemtu	Tahsis
Masset	Tofino/Ucluelet
Nanaimo	Vancouver
Nanoose	Victoria
Parksville	Yellowknife

Canadian Coast Guard Garde côtière canadienne

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